

(b) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the fragment binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor;

(c) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b), wherein the hybridization conditions include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor; and

(d) a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:3.

43. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42.

44. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 43.

45. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 44 under conditions that promote expression of the polypeptide.

46. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the polypeptide binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor.

47. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 46.

48. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 47.

49. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42, wherein said encoded polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated N-linked glycosylation sites;
- (b) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated KEX2 sites;
- (c) a polypeptide having one or more deleted or substituted Cys residues; and
- (d) a polypeptide having one or more of the changes of (a)-(c).

50. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42, wherein said encoded polypeptide fragment has an amino terminus selected from amino acids 1 through 5 of SEQ ID NO:4 and a carboxy terminus selected from amino acids 151 through 155 of SEQ ID NO:4.

51. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 46, wherein said encoded polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated N-linked glycosylation sites;
- (b) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated KEX2 sites;
- (c) a polypeptide having one or more deleted or substituted Cys residues; and
- (d) a polypeptide having one or more of the changes of (a)-(c).

52. (New) A nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the hybridization conditions include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.